

**EYD Plan Focus Group: Improving Services to Public Charter Schools**  
**(with guest Chris Lalik from the Student Support Center)**  
**July 14, 2010**  
**DC Prep Public Charter School**

**Objectives:**

- *The focus group will be able to articulate successful areas of service delivery and support and ways in which we can build upon and ensure that these are maintained*
- *The focus group will articulate areas for improvement and areas of need with regard to services provided by DC government and the Student Support Center(SSC)*
- *The focus group will understand how to participate and support the work of the SSC as part of their Services Integration Grant*

**Agenda:**

<b>I.</b>	<b>Opening/Review Agenda</b>	<b>2:00 – 2:10</b>
<b>II.</b>	<b>Brief overview of EYD Plan and updates</b>	
<b>III.</b>	<b>Review initial mapping conducted within the DME</b>	<b>2:10 – 2:20</b>
<b>IV.</b>	<b>Introduction of the Services Integration Grant (Chris Lalik)</b>	<b>2:20 – 2:40</b>
<b>V.</b>	<b>Guiding Questions (see below)</b>	<b>2:40 – 3:15</b>
<b>VI.</b>	<b>Closing/Next Steps</b>	<b>3:15 – 3:30</b>
	a. Follow-up and additional meetings	
	b. Contact information:	
	Ahnna Smith ( <a href="mailto:Ahnna.smith@dc.gov">Ahnna.smith@dc.gov</a> ; 202-727-0696)	
	Chris Lalik ( <a href="mailto:clalik@studentsupportcenter.org">clalik@studentsupportcenter.org</a> ; 202-587-5961)	

**Guiding Questions**

1. What is working well currently/what services or structures already facilitate strong support for public charter schools?
2. How do you typically learn about support services/opportunities? How would you like to get information about programs/services?
3. What are the areas for improvement that you would like to see addressed further or efforts that don't currently meet your needs? (identify as many as possible and prioritize – which are immediate priorities, 6 months, 1year?)
4. **Specific areas of focus:**
  - a. Do you feel that your school is knowledgeable about how to access city services?
  - b. Are you aware of the various city services available to your school?
  - c. Has your school been able to effectively access city services for students?
  - d. Who at your school is responsible for accessing city services?
  - e. Are there any specific training you feel your staff needs to access city services?
  - f. Other than mental health, school safety, school health, and truancy what are your school's top three service needs?
  - g. What recommendations would you make to improve access to city services?

**NOTES**

1. Services/structures working well:

- DME:
  - Help with SROs
  - Accessibility

2. How do you learn about support services/opportunities?

- Emails – too many, however
  - PCSB weekly
  - OSSE weekly
    - Feedback: other agencies should go through these newsletters perhaps, or maybe DME should gather information

3. What are the areas for improvement?

- Communication
  - Emails should be limited and comprehensive (compile/bucket information)
  - Lack of communication between OSSE and PCSB should be solved
    - Charters should not have to report the same information to two agencies
- OSSE
  - Personnel and structural changes too frequent.
  - Need for a chart mapping who to go to for what
- Finance
  - Tracking funds to grants too difficult for charters.
- PCSB
  - Should create a calendar for charters of everything they are required to submit.
- DPR
  - Favor public schools for access to facilities. Charters need more access.
- Citywide
  - Organizational chart needed for services
  - Agency websites are not helpful to schools
  - Need data integration

4. Specific areas of focus:

- Training
  - Too much training/not enough training on site.
  - Need training relating to legislative changes
  - Need training on what to report to which agencies
  - Need training on what services are available and who offers them.
  - Need training on disability services/requirements
    - Need training on ADA vs. IDEA requirements
- Service needs
  - Crossing guards
  - Traffic signs
  - Snow removal
  - OST programming
    - DPR